Appln. No.: 09/506,449

Amendment dated March 25, 2003

Reply to Office Action of September 26, 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Atty. Docket No.:

001701.86409

Akira ISHIKURA et al.

09/506,449

Group Art Unit:

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Sharma, S.

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COMMUNICATION FUNCTION

AMENDMENT

RECEIVED

MAR Z 6 2003

Honorable Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 26, 2002, please amend the instant application as follows. Since the Office Action Summary failed to set a shortened statutory period for reply, it is believed that this response is timely filed without the necessity of extension fees:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.